

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-13 L-03  
NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SS-15  
SP-02 INT-05 FEA-01 /114 W  
-----122056Z 038635 /72-70

R 112148Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 920

UNCLAS BOGOTA 3275

ATTN: L. MCCLELLAND

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, CO

SUBJECT: ERUPTION OF PURACE VOLCANO

REF: SMITHSONIAN 2420552 MAR 77

1. AT 0545 (LOCAL TIME) ON MARCH 19 PURACE VOLCANO ERUPTED  
THROWING OUT LARGE QUANTITIES OF VAPORS AND VOLCANIC ASH  
THROUGH TWO NEW CRATER CHIMNEYS. ACCORDING TO AN EYE WITNESS  
THE EXPLOSION AND ERUPTION PRODUCED A HUGE BLACK AND GREY  
COLUMN OF VAPOR AND ASH. THERE WAS NO LAVA FLOW OR ROCKS.  
NO INJURIES RESULTED FROM THE ERUPTION. THE WITNESS DID  
NOT DESCRIBE THE INITIAL HEIGHT OF THE COLUMN BUT EIGHT  
DAYS LATER ESTIMATED IT TO REACH A HEIGHT OF TWO HUNDRED  
METERS OVER THE CRATER.

2. A GUILLERMO CAJINO OF CALI, WHO VISITED THE CRATER ON  
MARCH 25, SAID FELT A SMALL TREMOR AT ABOUT 2300 ON  
MARCH 24. HE WAS ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS AWAY FROM THE  
CRATER AT THE TIME AND COULD HEAR RUMBLING NOISES.  
THE NEXT DAY HE VISITED THE SITE AND WITNESSED A COLUMN  
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OF WHITE FUMARIC GASES BEING EMITTED FROM TWO NEW  
CHINNEYS OPENED DURING THE ERUPTION. (THERE HAD ONLY  
BEEN SMALL FISSURES BEFORE). SCATTERED ASH DRIFTED  
TOWARD THE SOUTHEAST COVERING ABOUT THIRTY PERCENT  
OF THE SLOPES AS FAR AS TOMBO. THE ASH DID NOT  
REACH AS FAR AS POPAYAN. THE VOLCANO WAS STILL ACTIVE  
UP TO MARCH 28. THE TWO CHIMNEYS WERE BECOMING SMALLER,

HOWEVER, PERHAPS DUE TO ITS OWN ASH FALLING BACK ON THEM.

3. THE LAST PREVIOUS ERUPTION WAS IN 1957 AND WAS CONSIDERED MORE VIOLENT. ON MAY 26, 1949, SIXTEEN STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF POPAYAN WERE KILLED WHEN THE VOLCANO ERUPTED AND THREW OUT INCANDESCENT STONE AND ASH.

DREXLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 2847110  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ERUPTION OF PURACE VOLCANO  
**TAGS:** TPHY, SWEL, CO  
**To:** SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY CAMBRIDGE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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